

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

14.4.30

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

NOTIFICATION CONCERNING
SUBMISSION OR TRANSMITTAL
OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

(PCT Administrative Instructions, Section 411)

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Date of mailing (day/month/year) 21 April 2004 (21.04.2004)	
Applicant's or agent's file reference MEW1729E	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
International application No. PCT/JP2004/000382	International filing date (day/month/year) 19 January 2004 (19.01.2004)
International publication date (day/month/year) Not yet published	Priority date (day/month/year) 21 January 2003 (21.01.2003)
Applicant MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS, LTD. et al	

- By means of this Form, which replaces any previously issued notification concerning submission or transmittal of priority documents, the applicant is hereby notified of the date of receipt by the International Bureau of the priority document(s) relating to all earlier application(s) whose priority is claimed. Unless otherwise indicated by the letters "NR", in the right-hand column or by an asterisk appearing next to a date of receipt, the priority document concerned was submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b).
- (If applicable) The letters "NR" appearing in the right-hand column denote a **priority document which, on the date of mailing of this Form, had not yet been received by the International Bureau** under Rule 17.1(a) or (b). Where, under Rule 17.1(a), the priority document must be submitted by the applicant to the receiving Office or the International Bureau, but the applicant fails to submit the priority document within the applicable time limit under that Rule, **the attention of the applicant is directed** to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.
- (If applicable) An asterisk(*) appearing next to a date of receipt, in the right-hand column, denotes a **priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau but not in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b)** (the priority document was received after the time limit prescribed in Rule 17.1(a) or the request to prepare and transmit the priority document was submitted to the receiving Office after the applicable time limit under Rule 17.1(b)). Even though the priority document was not furnished in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b), the International Bureau will nevertheless transmit a copy of the document to the designated Offices, for their consideration. In case such a copy is not accepted by the designated Office as priority document, Rule 17.1(c) provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.

<u>Priority date</u>	<u>Priority application No.</u>	<u>Country or regional Office or PCT receiving Office</u>	<u>Date of receipt of priority document</u>
21 Janu 2003 (21.01.2003)	2003-012812	JP	15 Apri 2004 (15.04.2004)

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/000382

International filing date (day/month/year)
19.01.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
21.01.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
A45D27/46, B26B19/38

Applicant
MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS, LTD.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☒ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1b/s(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/000382

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/000382

Box No. II Priority

1. ☒ The following document has not been furnished:

☒ copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(a)).

☐ translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(b)).

Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.

2. ☐ This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Additional observations, if necessary:

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43*bis*.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	2, 5-8
	No: Claims	1, 3, 4
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	None
	No: Claims	1-8
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-8
	No: Claims	None

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: US-A-5 711 328 (BRAUN GEBHARD) 27 January 1998 (1998-01-27) cited in the application
- D2: US-A-3 659 180 (URBUSH RICHARD L) 25 April 1972 (1972-04-25)
- D3: US-B1-6 313 604 (CHEN HAN-LIANG) 6 November 2001 (2001-11-06)
- D4: US-A-4 092 580 (PRINSZE ONNO M) 30 May 1978 (1978-05-30)
- D5: US-B1-6 263 890 (HOESER JUERGEN) 24 July 2001 (2001-07-24)
- D6: EP-A-1 054 261 (BRAUN GMBH) 22 November 2000 (2000-11-22)

2 With regard to the prior art represented by D1 the subject-matters of claims 1, 3 and 4 are not new according to Article 33(2) PCT.

2.1 D1 discloses the subject-matter of claim 1 (cf. figure 1, the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A cleaning system comprising a hair removing apparatus (1) and a cleaning device (5), said apparatus having a height and an operator head (3) at its top end, said apparatus incorporating an externally controllable electric circuit (95) for driving said operator head and/or charging said apparatus in accordance with an external electric signal, said cleaning device comprising:

- a housing (4) configured to hold said apparatus upside down;
- a basin (7) formed in said housing for accommodating therein said operator head;
- a tank (6) provided on the housing to contain a volume of a cleaning liquid (40),
- a supplying means (23) for supplying the cleaning fluid from said tank to said basin for cleaning the operator head;
- a controller (29) for activating said supplying means as well as for providing said electric signal,

said housing (4) being formed with a signal transmitting means (represented by the thunder symbol) for transmitting said electric signal, said hair removing apparatus having a signal receiving means (95) which comes into electrical interconnection with said signal transmitting means for giving said electric signal to said electric circuit when said apparatus is held by said housing; wherein said signal transmitting means is disposed at a portion of the housing upwardly of said basin, and said signal receiving means is disposed intermediate the height of said apparatus.

2.2 D1 further discloses the subject-matters of dependent claims 3 and 4, especially

that the signal transmitting means and signal receiving means comprise primary respectively secondary windings and are coupled electromagnetically (reed switch, 95) and that the housing is provided with holding means (8-10).

3 With regard to the prior art represented by D1, D2 and D3 the subject matters of claims 2 and 5-8 do not contain a contribution to the prior art involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

3.1 D1 discloses a cleaning system from which the subject-matter of claim 2 differs in that the electrical interconnection between signal transmitting means and signal receiving means is provided by terminal pads formed on the exterior of the apparatus's casing and a set of contacts exposed on the exterior of the housing.

It is however generally known to the person skilled in the art that this is an equivalent to the electromagnetic coupling disclosed in D1 and can be interchanged with that feature where circumstances make it desirable, see D2, D6 of D7.

3.2 The features of claims 5 and 8 have already been employed for the same purpose in a similar holding means for a hair removing apparatus on a support, see D2, figure 2, column 2, line 19 - column 3, line 3. It would be obvious for the person skilled in the art, namely when the same result of insuring the electrical interconnection by bias is to be achieved, to apply these features with corresponding effect to a cleaning system according to D1, thereby arriving at a cleaning system according to claims 5 and 8.

3.3 The features of claims 5 and 7 have already been employed for the same purpose in a similar holding means for a hand held apparatus on a support, see D3, figures 1-4. It would be obvious for the person skilled in the art, namely when the same result of insuring the electrical interconnection by bias is to be achieved, to apply these features with corresponding effect to a cleaning system according to D1, thereby arriving at a cleaning system according to claims 5 and 7.

3.4 The feature of claim 6 is merely one of several straightforward possibilities (pushing or pulling, see claim 7) from which the skilled person would select, in accordance with circumstances, without the exercise of inventive skill, in order to obtain the desired bias from the unit on the housing on the apparatus and towards the housing, see D4.